

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A tool management method comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a first request via a network;
3 determining a type of said first request using a first predetermined field in a
4 portion of said request; and
5 sending a first message to a tool in response to said request and said request
6 type wherein said first message is operable for controlling an action of the tool.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining an
2 identification of a tool object corresponding to said tool using a second predetermined
3 field in said portion of said request.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said tool performs a first action in response to
2 said message.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said tool returns at least one second message
2 associated with said first action, said method further comprising the step of caching
3 said at least one second message.

1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:
2 retrieving selected ones of said at least one second message; and
3 generating a response to a second request using said selected ones of said at
4 least one second message.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of sending said response to
2 a client system initiating said first and second requests.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said first request is transferred in accordance
2 with a network transfer protocol, and said network transfer protocol defining a format
3 of said first request.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of
2 receiving a connection request; and
3 opening a connection to a client, said connection being operable for
4 communicating requests and responses to said requests.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a second request, said second request selected from the group
3 consisting of information (INFO) requests, expand requests and edit requests,
4 wherein, in response to each of said information requests, a set of selected data for a
5 tool object corresponding to a managed tool is loaded into a WorldWideWeb ("Web")
6 page for sending to a client, in response to each of said edit requests, a Web page
7 having portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool
8 object attribute is generated for sending to said client, and in response to each of said
9 expand requests a set of child object names and relations to a parent object identified
10 in each expand request is generated for sending to said client.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said type of said first request denotes an
2 execute request.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of sending said first message is in
2 response to execution of a tool object method identified in said first request.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of overriding said tool
2 object method.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of overriding said tool object
2 method comprises the steps of:
3 parsing a script source;
4 determining if said script source includes a method signature matching a
5 method signature of said tool object method; and
6 if so, executing a corresponding portion of said script source.

1 14. The method of claim 7 wherein said transfer protocol is the hypertext transfer
2 protocol (HTTP), and said first portion corresponds to a first field in a uniform
3 resource locator (URL) path.

1 15. A data processing system comprising:
2 circuitry operable for receiving a first request via a network;
3 circuitry operable for determining a type of said first request using a first
4 predetermined field in a portion of said request; and
5 circuitry operable for sending a first message to a tool in response to said first
6 request and said type of said first request wherein said first message is operable for
7 controlling an action of the tool.

1 16. The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising the circuitry for
2 determining an identification of a tool object corresponding to said tool using a
3 second predetermined field in said portion of said request.

1 17. The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said tool performs a first
2 action in response to said message.

1 18. The data processing system of claim 17 wherein said tool returns at least one
2 second message associated with said first action, said method further comprising the
3 step of caching said at least one second message.

1 19. The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising:
2 circuitry operable for retrieving selected ones of said at least one second
3 message; and
4 circuitry operable for generating a response to a second request using said
5 selected ones of said at least one second message.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 19 further comprising circuitry operable
2 for sending said response to a client system initiating said first and second requests.

1 21. The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:
2 circuitry operable for receiving a connection request; and
3 circuitry operable for opening a connection to a client, said connection being
4 operable for communicating requests and responses to said requests.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising circuitry operable
2 for receiving a second request, said second request selected from the group consisting
3 of information (INFO) requests, expand requests and edit requests, wherein, in
4 response to each of said information requests, a set of selected data for a tool object
5 corresponding to a managed tool is loaded into a WorldWideWeb ("Web") page for
6 sending to a client, in response to each of said edit requests, a Web page having
7 portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object
8 attribute is generated for sending to said client, and in response to each of said expand
9 requests a set of child object names and relations to a parent object identified in each
10 expand request is generated for sending to said client.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said type of said first request
2 denotes an execute request.

1 24. The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said step of sending said first
2 message is in response to execution of a tool object method identified in said first
3 request.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 24 further comprising circuitry operable
2 for overriding said tool object method.

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1 27. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the
2 program product including a program of instructions for performing the steps of:
3 receiving a first request via a network;
4 determining a type of said first request using a first predetermined field in a
5 portion of said request; and
6 sending a first message to a tool in response to said first request and said type
7 of said first request, wherein said first message is operable for controlling an action of
8 the tool.

1 28. The program product of claim 27 further comprising instructions for
2 performing the step of determining an identification of a tool object corresponding to
3 said tool using a second predetermined field in said portion of said request.

1 29. The program product of claim 27 wherein said tool performs a first action in
2 response to said message.

1 30. The program product of claim 29 wherein said tool returns at least one second
2 message associated with said first action, said method further comprising the step of
3 caching said at least one second message.

1 31. The program product of claim 30 further comprising instructions for
2 performing the steps of:
3 retrieving selected ones of said at least one second message; and
4 generating a response to a second request using said selected ones of said at
5 least one second message.

1 32. The program product of claim 31 further comprising instructions for
2 performing the step of sending said response to a client system initiating said first and
3 second requests.

1 33. The program product of claim 27 further comprising instructions for
2 performing the steps of
3 receiving a connection request; and
4 opening a connection to a client, said connection being operable for
5 communicating requests and responses to said requests.

1 34. The program product of claim 27 further comprising instructions for
2 performing the step of receiving a second request, said second request selected from
3 the group consisting of information (INFO) requests, expand requests and edit
4 requests, wherein, in response to each of said information requests, a set of selected
5 data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool is loaded into a
6 WorldWideWeb ("Web") page for sending to a client, in response to each of said edit
7 requests, a Web page having portion operable for user entry of one or more values for
8 modifying a tool object attribute is generated for sending to said client, and in
9 response to each of said expand requests a set of child object names and relations to a
10 parent object identified in each expand request is generated for sending to said client.

1 35. The program product of claim 27 wherein said type of said first request
2 denotes an execute request.

1 36. The program product of claim 35 wherein said instructions for performing the
2 step of sending said first message are performed in response to execution of a tool
3 object method identified in said first request.

1 37. The program product of claim 36 further comprising instructions for
2 performing the step of overriding said tool object method.

1 38. The program product of claim 37 wherein said instructions for performing the
2 step of overriding said tool object method comprises instructions for performing the
3 steps of:

4 parsing a script source;

5 determining if said script source includes a method signature matching a
6 method signature of said tool object method; and

7 if so, executing a corresponding portion of said script source.

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